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Comment Received From: Cynthia Goldberg

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BESS near Vacaville is a bad idea

I am new to concerns regarding life in Solano County as I just helped my daughter and her family buy a home in the Brighton Landing Subdivision. I live nearby in Yolo County, where I have been a homeowner for 30 years. As a long time resident of the region and now a grandmother and mother with family living in Vacaville, I have dived into learning all I can about this community and I've been pleased, thinking this will be a good place for my grandchildren to grow up. But now I'm not so sure. I feel their health and wellbeing will be threatened by the proposed lithium battery storage facility along Brynes Road which is part of my drive from my home to my daughters several times each week. And I have significant concern that the city and county's choices about this BESS facility might be overrun by the state's decisions made by people who are not going to be negatively impacted by a runaway fire, toxic fumes, loss of ag land, or transportation snags when Interstate 80 is shut down for incidents at the BESS.

Here are my concerns.

Hazardous toxic, combustible materials in an area nearby to homes, the single major east-west highway in northern California, railroad lines that transport cargo with no method to control such a fire.

The Moss Landing fire at a similar site could not be managed by firefighters, Firefighters have said these fires must just be allowed to burn out. This means toxic heavy metals will be in the air. Unlike Moss Landing, Vacaville is not coastal and does not get rain and wind year round that might purge the air. The Solano-Yolo-Sacramento area already struggles with air quality and respiratory health concerns both in pollen seasons and during fire season which is now most of the year. Why add more?

Nearby orchards and agricultural land would have toxins spread over them and would pollute the soil as well as the food produced. Solano County has agribusiness concerns that will feel a negative impact.

Leisure town Road is an unofficial eastern boundary of city development that is being upgraded and the land to the east of this road is now home to several new subdivisions with more growth planned. The residents along the Leisure town Road corridor will have fumes, ash, heavy metals deposited in their yards, on their children, pets and homes when there is a fire. And then there are property values which may drop if the BESS's location is close to this growing city. It is a negative for quality of life for residents and homeowners.

There will be fires. These facilities burn. With no ability to allow for a safe burn. The first responders will be endangered by breathing the fumes of such a fire.

The location is close to Interstate 80. The only highway from the Bay Area to the Sierras. Used by truckers and vacationers alike. Weekend traffic on I-80 can back up from Lake Tahoe down to Davis for hours. This is a major evacuation route when there are wildfires. It is easy to envision a BESS incident closing down I-80. There is no other route to the eastern US for hundreds of miles.

And then there is the local control issue. Both the City of Vacaville and Solano County's voices should be more relevant to this decision than the State. The impact will be on local folks—even for me as a Davis homeowner—I do not want this BESS facility 20 minutes from my home (which it would be) nor do I want it 5 minutes from my daughter's family home either.

So please review this project with care and reject these too close for comfort locations.

Thank you